



Aloha!

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Greetings from USCGC RUSH, underway on the high seas! Thank you for joining us for the final issue of Volume I of RUSH HOUR. We hope it gives you an inside look at our lives underway aboard the finest ship in the fleet, USCGC RUSH!

For the past few weeks, Team RUSH has been, to say the least, hard at work! Along with maintaining our readiness for operations, we have been diligently preparing for our upcoming Command Assessment for Readiness Training (CART) availability and our Tailored Annual Cutter Training (TACT) evaluation. These assessments will challenge Team RUSH's ability to uphold general shipboard procedures and respond to internal and external emergencies. Our Inport duty sections have been getting adequate training with numerous drills focused on fires, flooding and toxic gas leaks while the entire ship has been polishing their abilities to respond to external combat threats during several General Quarters drills. We've also been practicing our response to other shipboard emergencies including Man Overboard and Abandon Ship. Our shipboard training teams have been doing a great job ensuring Team RUSH is ready for anything!

We also had the pleasure of enjoying a couple of relaxing and exotic ports of call prior to our transit home. All departments, especially our engineers, were able to find a few days off from their underway workload, which can sometimes be very demanding.

As November came to a close, we made preparations for celebrating one of our nation's most heart-warming holidays – Thanksgiving. To be in a situation where we are not able to spend the holidays with our families is always hard to overcome, but the Morale Committee, Chief's Mess and Officer corps did a wonderful job of making sure Team RUSH had a memorable underway holiday. They volunteered to serve Thanksgiving Dinner in a restaurant atmosphere and helped our cooks with a lot of the behind-the-scenes work that goes along with serving the entire crew. Crewmembers were asked to make reservations to ensure everyone was given special treatment during this time away from home. Our Ombudsman also provided a special Thanksgiving video from dependants back home for us to enjoy during our meal. Along with a morning fish call and an afternoon swim call, the Thanksgiving celebration aboard RUSH was a

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great success as everyone had a great time and a great feast provided by our superb Food Service division.

As our patrol draws to an end and we make our transit back to Honolulu, we look back on what was unmistakably a successful patrol. Every person on board RUSH contributed to our numerous achievements. Our Weapons department made sure RUSH's gunnery capabilities maintained its operational readiness and RUSH looked its best at all times. The Support department ensured RUSH's supply needs were met, personnel issues taken care of, great meals were served and personnel had twenty-four hour medical care. The Engineering department provided excellent auxiliary support for the crew and, despite a few casualties, up kept the finest Engine Room in the fleet while our Operations department ensured RUSH was a highly valuable and key asset by making sure all operational directives were met and RUSH was always headed in the right direction. They made sure that mission availability was never compromised by working with other units in the Coast Guard, as well as other services. It takes the part of every member aboard Team RUSH to get the job done. Their courage and commitment to uphold their devotion to duty have demonstrated the strongest form of nobility. This patrol has been a testament to the stamina, hard work and diligence of this fine crew. As we close yet another chapter in RUSH's fine history, it will not be the operational achievements or the exclusive port of calls that will define this patrol, but rather the caliber and fortitude of the finest crew to grace the decks of the Coast Guard's premier High Endurance Cutter – Team RUSH.

The following note of congratulations was presented to Team RUSH from District Eleven Commander RADM Eldridge following yet another successful drug interdiction this patrol. Great recognition goes out to all members of Team RUSH for their consistent devotion to duty that allowed this victory in the war on drugs. It is a true reflection of the fine work attained by this exceptional group of men and women everyday.

TO: USCGC RUSH

SUBJ: BZ - GO FAST (WON) - DETECTION AND INTERDICTION

THE USCGC RUSH AND OTHER USN/USCG ASSETS PARTICIPATED IN THE DETECTION AND INTERDICTION OF A GO FAST VESSEL (GFV) IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC FROM 19 OCT TO 21 OCT. INITIAL DETECTION OF THE GFV OCCURRED ON 19 OCT IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS OFF THE COAST OF COLOMBIA BY A HELICOPTER. AT THIS TIME, RUSH WAS DIVERTED TO ASSIST IN THE INTERCEPT OF THE GFV. THE CREW IN THE HELICOPTER WITNESSED THE GFV JETTISONING WHITE BALES OVER THE SIDE, METICULOUSLY DOCUMENTING THE EVENT WITH STILL AND VIDEO IMAGERY. A USN VESSEL, HELICOPTER, AND THE USCGC RUSH MAINTAINED CONTINUOUS CONSTANT PURSUIT OF THE GFV FOR ALMOST THREE HOURS WHEN THE GFV CAPSIZED. USCGC RUSH LED THE SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS FOR THE GFV'S CREW WHILE USN VESSEL SEARCHED FOR THE JETTISONED BALES, THAT WERE NEVER RELOCATED. USCGC RUSH QUICKLY RESCUED 07 GFV CREWMEMBERS. ALL INVOLVED PARTIES PERFORMED SUPERBLY THROUGHOUT THIS LENGTHY OPERATION. THE TEAM EFFORTS RESULTED IN THE DETECTION AND INTERDICTION OF THE GFV AND PREVENTION OF APPROXIMATELY 4,299LBS OF COCAINE FROM REACHING ITS DESTINATION.

RADM K.J. ELDRIDGE, DISTRICT ELEVEN COMMANDER, SENDS.

Welcome aboard to the newest members of Team RUSH!

MK3 Asiel Masaki – Ewa Beach, Hawaii
FA Douglas Walters – Manila, Utah
SN Gregory Moder – Phoenix, Arizona
SA Daniel Norris – Seattle, Washington
SN Kevin Francis – Chino, California
SN Nathan Shook – Elgin, Oklahoma
SN Jesse Dadul – Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Crew Recognition

Advancement to O-2: **LTJG Eckel, LTJG Murray, LTJG Pizurro, LTJG Butterworth, LTJG Oliver**

Advancement to E-5: **BM2 Rowley, BM2 Seyler, MK2 Reed**

Advancement to E-4: **MK3 Masaki, OS3 Brown**

Advancement to E-3: **SN Cordova, SN Poen**

Coast Guard Achievement Medal: **BMC Swansburg**

Qualification as Underway Officer of the Deck: **LT Sullard, LTJG Weeks**

Qualification as Inport Officer of the Deck: **ENS Huff, BMC Swansburg**

Qualification as Underway Engineering Officer of the Watch: **DCC Brown**

Qualification as Boatswain's Mate of the Watch: **BM2 Seyler**

Qualification as Inport Junior Officer of the Day: **IT1 Bettencourt, YN1 Farnady**

Coast Guard Sea Service Award: **OS2 Bronik, ET2 Bailey, FS3 Banks, SN Asencio, SN Miller, SN Ronnfeldt**

Qualification as Cutter Boat Crewmember: **BM2 Tobosa**

Qualification as CIC Watch Supervisor: **OS2 Jimenez**

Qualification as Gangway Petty Officer of the Watch: **OS2 Cacapit**

Happy Birthday to the following crewmembers!

LT Thomas Sullard

ETC Christopher Smith

FS1 Joseph Stroup

OS1 Peni Motu

OS2 Kareem Smith

YN3 Patrick Mansfield

EM3 Andrei Lagergren

HSC Dave Romero

MK1 Ryan Paris

EM1 Erik Valenzuela

OS2 Robert Troha

BM2 Paul Seyler

FS3 Ratha Sam

ET3 Steven Solari

Hawaiian Word of the Week

Mana'o - signify, meaning, mind, opinion

Hawaiian Phrase of the Week

A 'ohe pau ka 'ike i ka halau ho'okahi

All knowledge is not taught in one school.



This week, we are highlighting MK2 Scott Reed and SN Ruth Cordova and asked them about their life on board RUSH and in the Coast Guard.

Where are you originally from, and why did you join the Coast Guard?

Reed: I am originally from Portland, Oregon, and I pretty much just woke up one day and decided to join!

Cordova: I was born in Carlsbad, New Mexico and have lived in Texas, Colorado, Germany, Iceland and England. When I lived in Iceland getting a degree in Environmental Law, I would always go jogging near a lighthouse on the shore. One day I went in and learned a fascinating story of how the lighthouse served great importance to the USCG Revenue Cutter Alexander Hamilton. I also understood Iceland's appreciation of the U.S. Coast Guard as well. I gained an appreciation of the Coast Guard and that, along with other reasons, convinced me to join.

Give us an idea of your job aboard RUSH.

Reed: I work in the Main Propulsion division on board RUSH. My shop takes care of our four propulsion systems and makes sure RUSH is always up and running. A typical day includes working long extensive hours on the engines as well as standing watch down in the Engine Room.

Cordova: As a Seaman, my division and I are sort of "jacks-of-all-trades", as our job description involves a wide spectrum of work from painting and deck jobs involving cosmetic maintenance to conducting helicopter and fueling-at-sea evolutions. We also contribute to the Food Service division as Messcooks. We are RUSH's major support team for all deck evolutions and practices. My job in particular involves maintaining the Paint Locker with SNBM Wells and SN Bunker.

What are your future plans, either in the Coast Guard or in the civilian sector?

Reed: I will soon be reaching the end of my enlistment, at which time I will go back home to Portland to pursue a Bachelors degree in Criminal Justice. From there, I would like to build a career in the law enforcement field.

Cordova: I don't have any set plans as of right now, just pretty much going with the flow. I have a lot of little personal goals, but as for the Coast Guard, as long as it's a job that involves working with and for the people, I'll be happy. Oh, and I want a sailboat!

What has been the most memorable part of your career so far?

Reed: My first day, when I was welcomed aboard RUSH in Panama, given coveralls to put on, and told to "turn to"!

Cordova: Establishing relationships with the people on board has been a priceless blessing!

Kia'i Kai No Ka Oi – The Best in The Coast Guard!**Who are your heroes?**

Reed: FN Seguin, because she rocks!

Cordova: The compassionate. I would have to say people who sacrifice for others. They all accumulate to be my hero.

What is your favorite part about RUSH?

Reed: I love to be woken up to fix something!

Cordova: MESSCOOKING!

If you could choose a port of call for RUSH to visit anywhere in the world, where would it be?

Reed: Antarctica, because I've never been there.

Cordova: Madagascar, because I want to see the ayeaye!

SHOUT-OUTS!

IT2 Kraus sends: **To our Stephanie and Tim, we miss you both and hope you are doing well. Steph: Be ready to jam! Tim: Be ready to record!**

SN Hirsh sends: **Almost to Hawaii, then almost home - Cincinnati! Can't wait to see everyone!**

LTJG Murray sends: **Hi Jeannie!!!! Hope all is well and we can't wait to see you. Walt....don't have much to say, but you lucky dog. See you soon. -Sean, Brock, Dave and Lilli**

LT Sullard sends: **Susanna, Patrick, Brendan, Mum, Sparky, Buttons, Pudd'n, & Patches, I love you all! To music, "I'll be home for Christmas, you can count on me...."**

OS1 Ausmus sends: **Hello Jolene. I love you very much and will see you soon. Thank you so much for supporting me. The emails and phone calls we shared certainly kept me going. Thank you for your tender and loving care farming our "peanut". You are absolutely my best friend and companion and I have missed you sorely. I can't wait to get home and make up for lost time. Love, Jim**

MK3 Perez sends: **We will be home soon so no worries, once we get back life will be good again! I love you Sierra and Kayven.....and my unborn baby GIRL!**

OS3 Pineda sends: **I will be home soon, I miss all of yall, love Jesse**

HSC Romero sends: **It, has been a long 90 day patrol and I can't wait to see you all soon. Daddy is coming home so that means I get my chair back :)**

SK3 Cheney sends: **Hey Tiff hope things are going good. I am sorry I am not going to be able to spend Christmas with you but we will be thinking of you. Hey everyone in Utah I will be home soon. Hey Uncle Neil Happy Birthday! Love Adam. Also, thanks Peni Motu for putting out the RUSH HOUR and thanks for helping me through the hard times.**

CDR Mathers sends: **Julianna and Anna - It won't be long now! Thank you for the great Thanksgiving video. Seeing Anna walk for the first time was wonderful. Your support for what I'm doing out here is a tremendous blessing and encouragement to me. I know its far from easy playing single parent while I'm u/w and I'm grateful for how you've handled it with grace. Looking forward to holding you both in my arms. Love, Dwight**

BMC Swansburg sends: **Carly Ann - Daddy is on his way home and is looking forward to our date at Chuckie Cheese...Please give Mommy a hug and kiss from Daddy.**

CWO Gephardt sends: **Donna, Zachary, Nicholas, Amanda and Kaitlyn, I miss you all and can't wait to be with you. Love You, Dad**



YNC Daniels gets ready to serve Thanksgiving dinner!



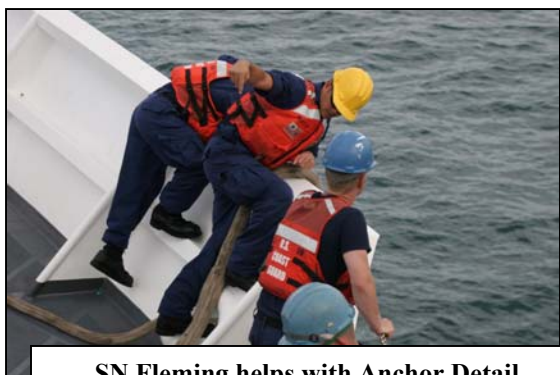
The Main Propulsion division enjoys Thanksgiving dinner together in the Wardroom



OS2 Smith, OS2 Porras-Montiho, SN Hirsh, OS2 Pullen and SK1 Benson celebrate Thanksgiving in the Chief's Mess



SN Wood, SN Rincon, FN Fouret, SN Asencio, SN Dugal, SN Graney and FN Sturgeon show who rules BINGO as the "Bingo BALLAZ"!



SN Fleming helps with Anchor Detail



RUSH 1 takes a spin during swim call



The crew catches some rays during Steel Beach and Swim Call



FN Fouret and SN Rincon go for a dip!



HSC Romero shows off his casino winnings



SN Cordova learns some new moves with a local Indian tribe during port liberty

It has been a long but worthwhile patrol. We hope this newsletter has given you an inside look into our lives underway. As we make our way home, we cannot help but remain thankful for the continuous and persevering support from our family and friends back home. Thank you for the undying love you continue to show us everyday. We could not have achieved anything without you. We wish you and yours a safe and happy holiday season this year!

Mele Kalikimaka e Hauoli Makahiki Hou!

Malama Pono,

**The Officers, Chiefs and Crew of
USCGC RUSH (WHEC 723)
Honolulu, Hawaii
Kia'I Kai No Ka Oi – The Best In The Coast Guard**

Visit us at: www.uscg.mil/pacarea/rush



November 06 – December 10